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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Aldo Marra, et al.

Application No.: 10/624,792

Filed: July 22, 2003

For: Portable Door Lock

Date: April 27, 2004

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Attorney Ref. No.: 126.01

*Response to Decision on Request Under 37 CFR 5.25*

Mail Stop Petition  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

The applicants, Aldo and Yael Marra, hereby respond to the Decision on Request Under 37 CFR 5.25 ("Decision") that was mailed on March 25, 2004. The Decision denied the applicants' petition for a retroactive filing receipt, for two reasons: (i) the alleged failure to provide a listing of the countries in which the foreign application was filed, along with the dates of filing, and (ii) lack of sufficient evidence that the foreign application was filed through error and without deceptive intent. The applicant responds to these points below, and with the new information provided by the applicants, the petition should now be granted.

*Date and Country of Filing*

The applicants respectfully disagree with the claim that they failed to identify the countries and dates of foreign filing. On page 1 of the declaration of Aldo Marra, the applicants stated that: "British counsel filed a PCT patent application with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on or about December 29, 2003." This

statement identifies both the jurisdiction of the filing -- "the World Intellectual Property Organization" -- and the date -- "on or about December 29, 2003."

Perhaps the examiner wants the information in list format:

<u>Type of Filing</u>	<u>Country of Filing</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Application Number</u>
PCT Chapter I Request	International Bureau World Intellectual Property Organization (Geneva, Switzerland)	29 Dec. 2003	PCT/IB03/06220

Or perhaps the examiner wants a listing of the countries that were designated in the PCT Chapter I filing:

**Countries/Jurisdictions Designated in PCT Chapter I Filing (see page 3 of Request, attached to Miller Decl.)**

- |                         |                                  |                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Aripo                | Herzegovina                      | 25. Germany        |
| 2. Eurasian Patent      | 13. Barbados                     | 26. Denmark        |
| 3. European             | 14. Bulgaria                     | 27. Dominica       |
| 4. OAPI                 | 15. Brazil                       | 28. Algeria        |
| 5. United Arab Emirates | 16. Belarus                      | 29. Ecuador        |
| 6. Antigua and Barbuda  | 17. Belize                       | 30. Estonia        |
| 7. Albania              | 18. Canada                       | 31. Spain          |
| 8. Armenia              | 19. Switzerland and Lichtenstein | 32. Finland        |
| 9. Austria              | 20. China                        | 33. United Kingdom |
| 10. Australia           | 21. Colombia                     | 34. Grenada        |
| 11. Azerbaijan          | 22. Costa Rica                   | 35. Georgia        |
| 12. Bosnia and          | 23. Cuba                         | 36. Ghana          |
|                         | 24. Czech Republic               | 37. Gambia         |
|                         |                                  | 38. Croatia        |

39. Hungary	Macedonia	83. Turkmenistan
40. Indonesia	61. Mongolia	84. Tunisia
41. Israel	62. Malawi	85. Turkey
42. India	63. Mexico	86. Trinidad and Tobago
43. Iceland	64. Mozambique	87. United Republic of
44. Japan	65. Nicaragua	Tanzania
45. Kenya	66. Norway	88. Ukraine
46. Kyrgyzstan	67. New Zealand	89. Uganda
47. Democratic People's	68. Oman	90. United States of
Republic of Korea	69. Papua New Guinea	America
48. Republic of Korea	70. Phillipines	91. Uzbekistan
49. Kazakhstan	71. Poland	92. Saint Vincent and the
50. Saint Lucia	72. Portugal	Grenadines
51. Sri Lanka	73. Romania	93. Viet Nam
52. Liberia	74. Russian Federation	94. Serbia and
53. Lesotho	75. Seychelles	Montenegro
54. Lithuania	76. Sudan	95. South Africa
55. Luxembourg	77. Sweden	96. Zambia
56. Latvia	78. Singapore	97. Zimbabwe
57. Morocco	79. Slovakia	98. Botswana
58. Republic of Moldova	80. Sierra Leone	99. Egypt
59. Madagascar	81. Syrian Arab	
60. The Former	Republic	
Yuogslav Republic of	82. Tajikistan	

Or perhaps the examiner objects to the applicant's statement that the PCT filing was made "on or about" December 29, 2003. The applicant hereby states that the PCT filing was made *on* December 29, 2003. (See Decl. of John Miller).

The applicant has now clearly complied with the requirements of 37 CFR 5.25 (1) and (2).

*The PCT Filing Was Made Through Error and Without Deceptive Intent*

As explained in the applicants' original petition, the PCT filing in this case was made because the applicants, who are laypersons and were not familiar with the requirements for a foreign filing license, engaged British counsel to file a foreign application. As explained below, British counsel was unaware that a foreign filing license had not been obtained, and therefore made the foreign filing as a result of an honest error.

The applicants now submit a declaration from their British counsel, John Miller. Mr. Miller is a patent attorney employed by the firm Brookes Batchellor LLP in Tunbridge Wells, U.K. Mr. Miller met with applicant Aldo Marra on December 8, 2003, and thereafter he filed the foreign application identified above on December 29, 2003.

At the time he made the filing, Mr. Miller was unaware that Mr. Marra had not yet received a foreign filing license from the USPTO. Mr. Miller knew that the US application had been filed nearly five months before, and he assumed that the foreign filing license had been issued by the USPTO. In fact, the issuance of the filing receipt and foreign filing license were delayed because a batch of applications (including the present application) were apparently overlooked by the OIPE. The applicant has now

received a foreign filing license, effective as of March 10, 2004.

Therefore, the foreign filing was made through error and without deceptive intent, since foreign counsel mistakenly but reasonably assumed that a foreign filing of the subject application would be allowed given the time that had elapsed since the US filing. For further details regarding the foreign filing, please see the Declaration of John Miller, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Therefore, the applicants respectfully petition for a foreign filing license with an effective date of December 1, 2003.

Dated: 4/27/2004

Daniel P. Maguire  
Daniel P. Maguire



PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/624,792	
	Filing Date	7/22/2003	
	First Named Inventor	Aldo Marra	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	28	Attorney Docket Number	126.01

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	(i) Resp. to Dec. on Req. under 37 CFR 5.25,
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	(ii) Supporting Decl. of John Miller
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Daniel P. Maguire	
Signature	<i>Don Maguire</i>	
Date	April 27, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. <i>Mail Stop Petition</i>			
Typed or printed name	Daniel P. Maguire		
Signature	<i>Don Maguire</i>	Date	April 27, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

International Patent Application of Aldo Marra, et al. )

Application No.: 10/624,792 )

Filed: July 22, 2003 )

For: Portable Door Lock )

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Attorney Ref. No.: 126.01

***Declaration of John Miller in Support of  
Petition for Retroactive Foreign Filing License***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

I, John Miller, am a UK patent attorney employed by the firm Brookes Batchellor LLP and working in Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom. I make this declaration based on personal knowledge, and could and would competently testify to these matters if called upon to do so:

1. In December 2003, I met Mr. Aldo Marra at the firm's office in Tunbridge Wells to discuss the filing of an international or PCT patent application for his portable door lock invention. I agreed that the firm would make such a filing for Mr. Marra through the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Thereafter, on December 29, 2003, the firm filed a PCT Chapter I Request with the International Bureau in Geneva, Switzerland, for the portable door lock that was invented by Mr. Marra and his wife, Yael Marra. A copy of that filing is attached.

2. At the time the filing was made, I was unaware that Mr. Marra had not yet received a foreign filing license from the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

***Declaration of John Miller in Support of  
Petition for Retroactive Foreign Filing License***



Mr. Marra informed me that he had filed a corresponding U.S. application on July 22, 2003 and provided me with a copy of the application and the application number. He did not inform me that administrative problems at the US Patent & Trademark Office had delayed the issuance of a filing receipt and foreign filing license. Prior to making the PCT filing, I had no contact with Mr Marra's U.S. patent counsel, Daniel Maguire. The filing of the PCT Request before the issuance of a foreign filing license was an error made without deceptive intent, since I was unaware of the fact that no foreign filing receipt had been received at the time of the PCT filing.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on.....8 April.....2004, at Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom

  
John Miller

*Declaration of John Miller in Support of  
Petition for Retroactive Foreign Filing License*

# FILE COPY

## PCT

### REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) MJ/AMp/03540

<b>Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION</b> PORTABLE DOOR LOCK	
<b>Box No. II APPLICANT</b> <div style="float: right;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This person is also inventor                 </div>	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  MARRA, Aldo PO Box 398 Davis California 95617 USA	Telephone No.  Facsimile No.  Teleprinter No.  Applicant's registration No. with the Office
State (that is, country) of nationality: US	State (that is, country) of residence: US
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all designated States</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</span> </div>	
<b>Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)</b>	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  MARRA, Yael 644 Alvarado, Apt. 231 Davis California 95616 USA	This person is: <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor  <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)                 </div> Applicant's registration No. with the Office
State (that is, country) of nationality: US	State (that is, country) of residence: US
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> all designated States</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box</span> </div>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.	
<b>Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: <div style="float: right;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agent                     <input type="checkbox"/> common representative                 </div>	
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)  BROOKES BATCHELLOR LLP 102-108 CLERKENWELL ROAD LONDON EC1M 5SA UNITED KINGDOM	Telephone No. + 44 1892 510600  Facsimile No. + 44 207 253 1214  Teleprinter No.  Agent's registration No. with the Office 08142291001
<input type="checkbox"/> Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.	

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)			
If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  <b>MILLER, John</b> <b>1 Boyne Park</b> <b>Tunbridge Wells</b> <b>Kent TN4 8EL</b> <b>United Kingdom</b>		This person is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)  Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality: <b>GB</b>		State (that is, country) of residence: <b>GB</b>	
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  		This person is: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)  Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence:	
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  		This person is: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)  Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence:	
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)  		This person is: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant only <input type="checkbox"/> applicant and inventor <input type="checkbox"/> inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)  Applicant's registration No. with the Office	
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence:	
This person is applicant for the purposes of: <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States <input type="checkbox"/> all designated States except the United States of America <input type="checkbox"/> the United States of America only <input type="checkbox"/> the States indicated in the Supplemental Box			
<input type="checkbox"/> Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.			



**Supplemental Box***If the Supplemental Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.*

J. *If, in any of the Boxes, except Boxes Nos. VIII(i) to (v) for which a special continuation box is provided, the space is insufficient to furnish all the information: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. ...." (indicate the number of the Box) and furnish the information in the same manner as required according to the captions of the Box in which the space was insufficient, in particular:*

- (i) *if more than two persons are to be indicated as applicants and/or inventors and no "continuation sheet" is available: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. III" and indicate for each additional person the same type of information as required in Box No. III. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below;*
- (ii) *if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the indication "the States indicated in the Supplemental Box" is checked: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the applicant(s) involved and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is applicant;*
- (iii) *if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the inventor or the inventor/applicant is not inventor for the purposes of all designated States or for the purposes of the United States of America: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the inventor(s) and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is inventor;*
- (iv) *if, in addition to the agent(s) indicated in Box No. IV, there are further agents: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. IV" and indicate for each further agent the same type of information as required in Box No. IV;*
- (v) *if, in Box No. V, the name of any State (or OAPI) is accompanied by the indication "patent of addition," or "certificate of addition," or if, in Box No. V, the name of the United States of America is accompanied by an indication "continuation" or "continuation-in-part": in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. V" and the name of each State involved (or OAPI), and after the name of each such State (or OAPI), the number of the parent title or parent application and the date of grant of the parent title or filing of the parent application;*
- (vi) *if, in Box No. VI, there are more than five earlier applications whose priority is claimed: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI" and indicate for each additional earlier application the same type of information as required in Box No. VI.*

Continuation of Box No. III

MILLER, John is applicant for TT only

2. *If, with regard to the precautionary designation statement contained in Box No. V, the applicant wishes to exclude any State(s) from the scope of that statement: in such case, write "Designation(s) excluded from precautionary designation statement" and indicate the name or two-letter code of each State so excluded.*

**Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM**

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country or Member of WTO	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 22/07/2003	10/624792	US		
item (2)				
item (3)				
item (4)				
item (5)				

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

☐ all items    ☐ item (1)    ☐ item (2)    ☐ item (3)    ☐ item (4)    ☐ item (5)    ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

\* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)): . . . .

.....

**Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA / EP .....

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

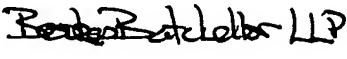
Country (or regional Office)

**Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS**

The following declarations are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

Number of  
declarations

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i)   | Declaration as to the identity of the inventor   | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii)  | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent             | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv)  | Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)                               | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v)   | Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty   | : |

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING		
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Annex to the Request

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International Application No.

Date stamp of the receiving Office

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MJ/AMp/03540

Applicant

MARRA, Aldo

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE . . . . . 68 T

2. SEARCH FEE . . . . . 945 S

International search to be carried out by \_\_\_\_\_  
(If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the name of the Authority which is chosen to carry out the international search.)

3. INTERNATIONAL FEE

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b1 first 30 sheets . . . . . 444 b1

b2 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ b2  
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b3 additional component (only if sequence listings and/or tables related thereto are filed in computer readable form under Section 801(a)(i), or both in that form and on paper, under Section 801(a)(ii)):

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The international application contains all designations.

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4. FEE FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT (if applicable) . . . . . P

5. TOTAL FEES PAYABLE . . . . . EUR 1,937

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TOTAL

☐ The designation fees are not paid at this time.

MODE OF PAYMENT

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☒ cheque ☐ bank draft ☐ revenue stamps ☐ other (specify):

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☐ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above.  
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## PORTABLE DOOR LOCK

### Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to portable door locks.

### Background of the Invention

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Portable door locks of various designs have been created to secure doors that do not have operable locks, or for travelers or others who wish to personally control access to a room. Such portable door locks can be especially useful in public accommodations, including hotels, dormitories, apartments, and cruise ships.

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Prior portable door locks possess several disadvantages. Many are complex and not cost effective to manufacture. Others can be picked, and those with securing pins can be wrenched or pried from the outside by intruders. Some portable door locks include notches, teeth or contain rough edges which may cause injury to the user during installation or removal. A number of portable door locks require special

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tools to install, or can only work with doorknobs or doorknob shanks of a specific size or shape. Still other portable door locks mar the door when installed, or detract from the door's appearance. Chain locking portable door locks have a low yield strength, and allow the door to be opened several inches, which makes it possible for the chain to be cut by an intruder. Thus, previous portable door locks have not enjoyed large

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scale commercial acceptance.

Therefore, there is a need for an improved portable door lock that does not damage doors or door frames, and that is simple, secure, compact, strong, lightweight, and inexpensive to manufacture.

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### Summary of the Invention

The present invention is a portable door lock comprising a strike plate, a magnet, and a bolt.

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### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is an environmental perspective view of a door and door frame with a portable door lock according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of a portable door lock according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a top cross-section view taken along lines 3-3 of Figure 1.

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Figure 4 is a side view of a strike plate according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a side view of a U-bolt according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 6 is a side view of a magnet according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a front view of a portable door lock according to an embodiment of the present invention, as installed in a door.

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Figure 8 corresponds to the view of Figure 3, but shows a portable door lock according to an embodiment of the present invention as configured for a door with a greater displacement between the molding and the door than in Figure 3.

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### Detailed Description

The present invention is a portable door lock comprising: a strike plate 10, a U-bolt 20, and a magnet 30. As shown in Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, the strike plate 10 is a plate-type structure with apertures (12, 13, 14, 15) for the U-bolt, and with a protuberance or boss 16 for holding the strike plate 10 in the recess of the deadbeat latch 50 or doorknob strike plate.

In one embodiment, the strike plate 10 has two sets of apertures. See Figure 2. The first set of apertures 12, 13 can be used when the distance between the molding 70 and the door 40 is relatively small, as shown in Figure 3. The second set of apertures 14, 15 can be used when the distance between the molding 70 and the door 40 is relatively greater, as shown in Figure 8. In alternative embodiments, one set of apertures can be used, or even a single aperture.

The strike plate 10 also has a hooked boss 16 at one end that engages the recess within a dead bolt latch 50 of a door frame 60, see Figures 1, 3, and 8, or the recess of a conventional doorknob strike plate within a door frame 60. Thus the present invention can work with any door frame that has a recess, whether that recess is part of a dead bolt or conventional door lock.

The strike plate 10 also has an arm 17, and a handle 18. See Figures 2, 3, 4, 7, 8. Users can grip the handle 18 when inserting the strike plate 10 into the recess of the door frame, thereby making installation easier.

The strike plate 10 can be made of many different materials, including metals such as iron and stainless steel, or metal coated plastic, or magnetized ceramic.

As shown best in Figures 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8, the U-bolt 20 has arms 22, 24 for fitting through the strike plate's apertures 12, 13, 14, 15. Like the strike plate, the U-

bolt 20 can be made of many different materials, including but not limited to metals such as iron and stainless steel, or metal coated plastic, or magnetized ceramic.

Although a U-bolt is shown, many different types of bolts or fastening devices can be used with the present invention. For instance, in one alternative embodiment, the U-bolt could have a pin that is placed between slots at the end of the U-bolt, thereby improving the U-bolt's strength. For purposes of this patent, the term "bolt" shall be used to generically denote any bolt, pin, or other structure that can fit into or through the aperture or apertures of the strike plate.

The magnetic bar 30 can be virtually any magnet that is sized and shaped so as to fit in the area between the strike plate 10, the U-bolt 20, and the door 40. See Figure 1. As shown in Figures 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8, in one embodiment the magnetic bar 30 is rectangular. The magnet can be sized so that when positioned in one orientation, it can accommodate a relatively narrow offset between the molding 70 and the door 40, and when positioned in a second orientation, it can accommodate a relatively wide offset between the molding 70 and the door 40. Compare Figures 3 and 8. The magnet can be made of traditional metallic materials, as well as magnetized ceramic.

The magnetic bar 30 also advantageously holds the pieces of the present invention together when the device is in its unassembled state. Thus, the magnet helps prevent loss of either the strike plate 10 or the U-bolt 20.

In one embodiment, both the U-bolt 20 and the strike plate 10 are made of materials that are capable of attracting and holding the magnetic bar 30. However, it is not necessary that both items be made of magnet-attracting materials – the invention can function so long as one of these items, or even just the appropriate part of one of these items, can attract and hold the magnetic bar 30.

In operation, the user grips the portable door lock by the handle 18, then places the boss 16 into the recess of the deadbeat latch 50 or doorknob strike plate. The door 40 is then closed, and the U-bolt 20 is placed through either set of apertures 12, 13, 14, 15 and the magnet is placed between the arms 22, 24 of the U-bolt, the body of the strike plate 10, and the door 40. See Figures 1 and 2. The magnet 30 adheres to the arms of the U-bolt 22, 24 and/or the body of the strike plate 10 and presses onto the face of the door 40. See Figures 1 and 2. The end of the U-bolt 20 opposite to the arms presses firmly against the door frame molding 70, thus precluding inward opening of the door. The device keeps the door securely closed and cannot be disengaged from the outside by an intruder.

The portable door lock of the present invention has many different applications, including use in public accommodations, such as hotels, dormitories, apartments, and cruise ships. The present invention may also be useful to prevent unwanted entry by the holder of a master key.

In addition to providing effective security, the device of the present invention is small, lightweight and easily packed. Having only three parts, it is easy and quick to install and uninstall, with no tools required. The device is durable and reliably constructed, as well as easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed. The present invention requires no particular door, handle, or door frame configuration, other than a standard strike plate with a recess. Neither installation nor removal of the device will damage, alter or mar the door, door frame or associated parts.

One skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention can be practiced by other than the preferred embodiments, which are presented for purposes of illustration and not of limitation.

**CLAIMS**

1. A kit for assembling a portable door lock, comprising:  
a strike plate having at least one aperture;  
5 a bolt for insertion into said aperture; and  
a magnet for adherence to said bolt and/or said strike plate.
2. A portable door lock comprising:  
a strike plate having a first end and a second end;  
10 at least one aperture at said first end of said strike plate;  
a boss for insertion into a recess within a door frame at said second end of said  
strike plate;  
a bolt for insertion into said aperture; and  
a magnet for adherence to said bolt and/or said strike plate.
- 15 3. The portable door lock according to claim 2, additionally comprising a handle  
on said strike plate for gripping by a user.
4. The portable door lock according to either claim 2 or claim 3, wherein one of  
20 said strike plate or said bolt is metallic.
5. The portable door lock according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein both of  
said strike plate and said bolt is metallic.
- 25 6. The portable door lock according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said  
first end of said strike plate has a pair of apertures.
7. The portable door lock according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said  
first end of said strike plate has two pairs of apertures.

8. The portable door lock according to any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein said bolt is a U-bolt.

5 9. The portable door lock according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein said magnet is sized so as to be capable of fitting in two distinct orientations when adhering to said bolt and/or said strike plate.

10 10. A method of locking a door, comprising:  
providing a strike plate with a handle, a boss at one end and at least one  
aperture at the other end;  
gripping said strike plate by said handle, and inserting said boss into a recess  
within a door frame;  
inserting a bolt through said aperture; and  
inserting a magnet in an area between said bolt, said strike plate, and said  
15 door, thereby locking said door.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said strike plate has a pair of apertures.

20 12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said strike plate has two pair of apertures.

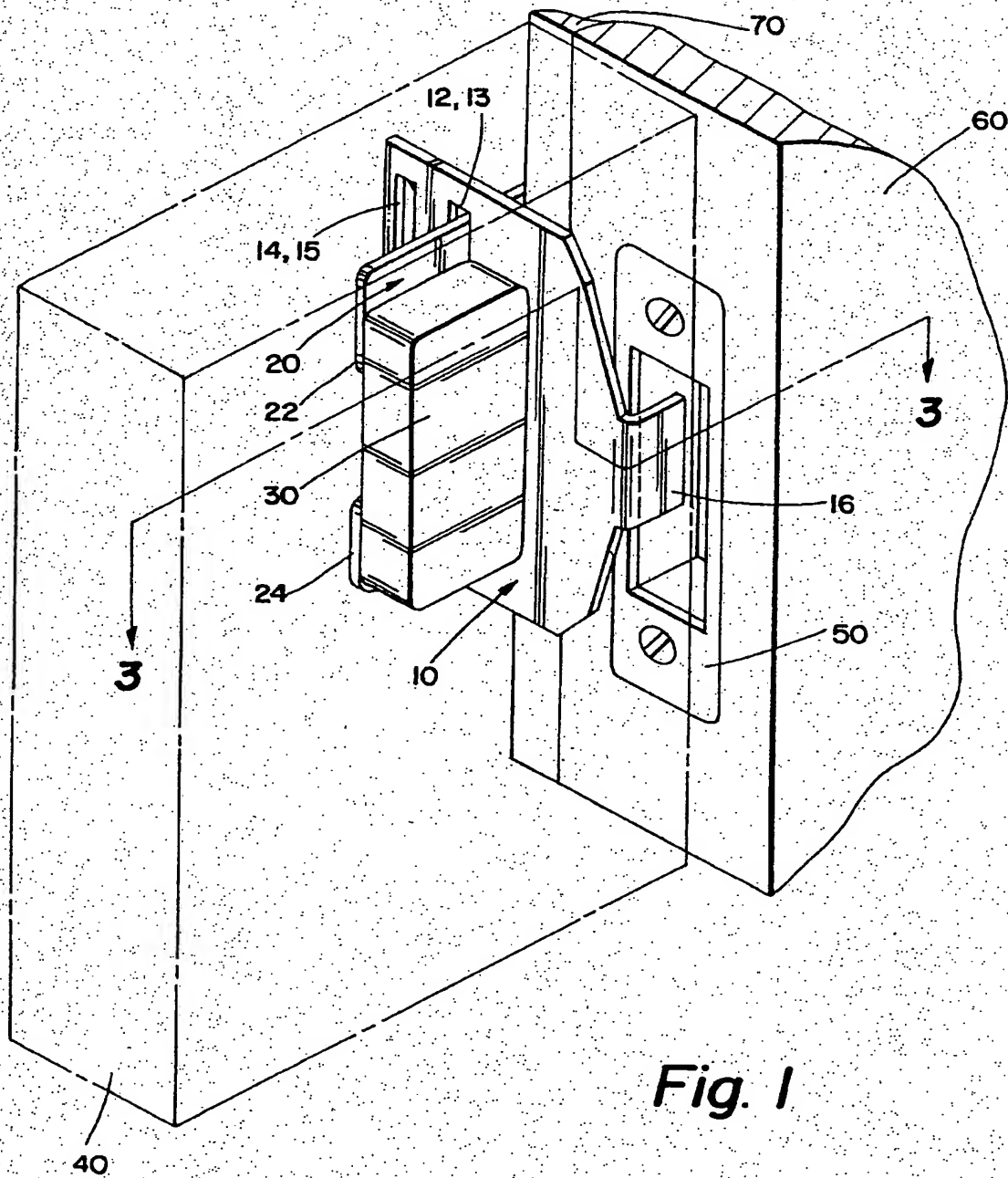
13. A portable door lock comprising:  
a metal strike plate having a first end and a second end;  
25 two pairs of apertures at said first end of said strike plate;  
a boss for insertion into a recess within a door frame at said second end of said strike plate;  
a metal U-bolt for insertion into one of said two pairs of apertures; and  
a magnet for adherence to said bolt and said strike plate.

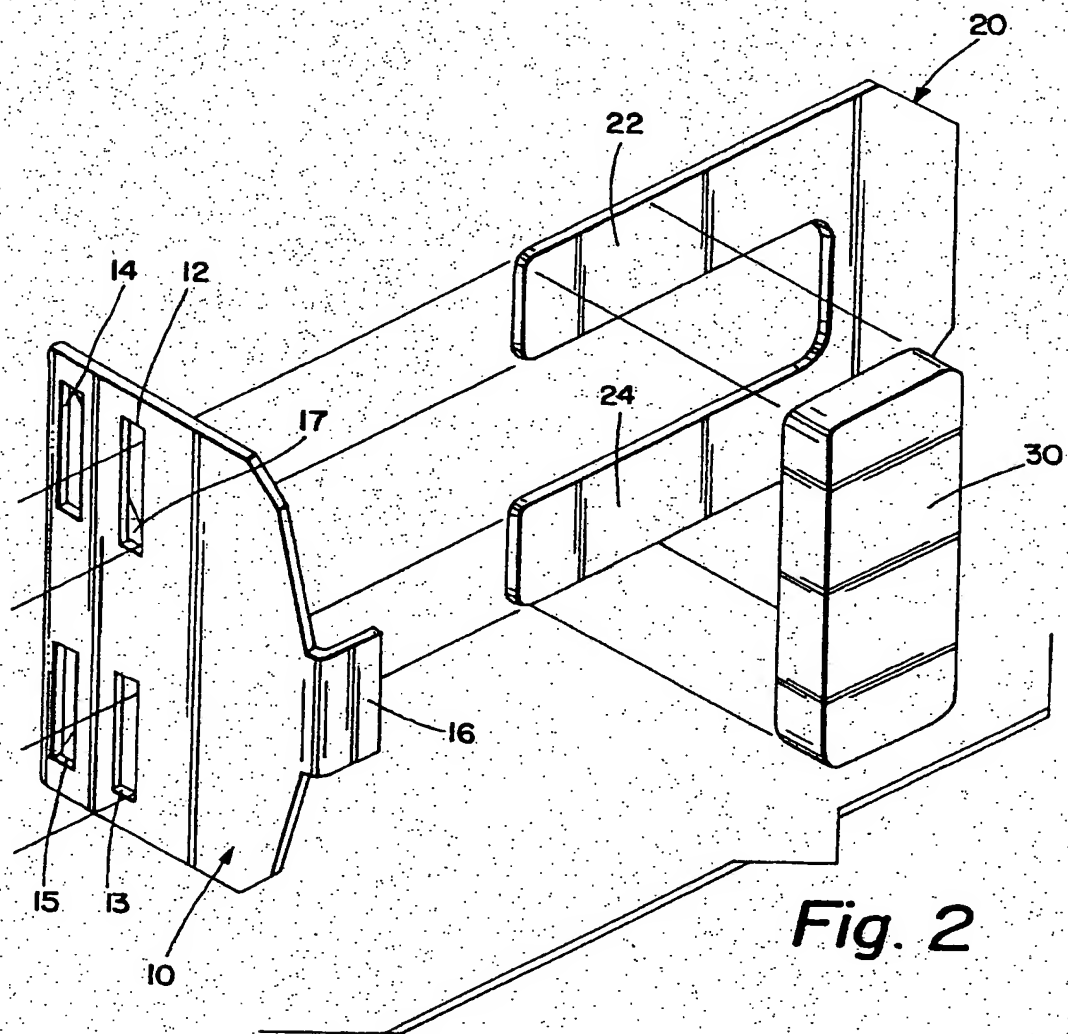
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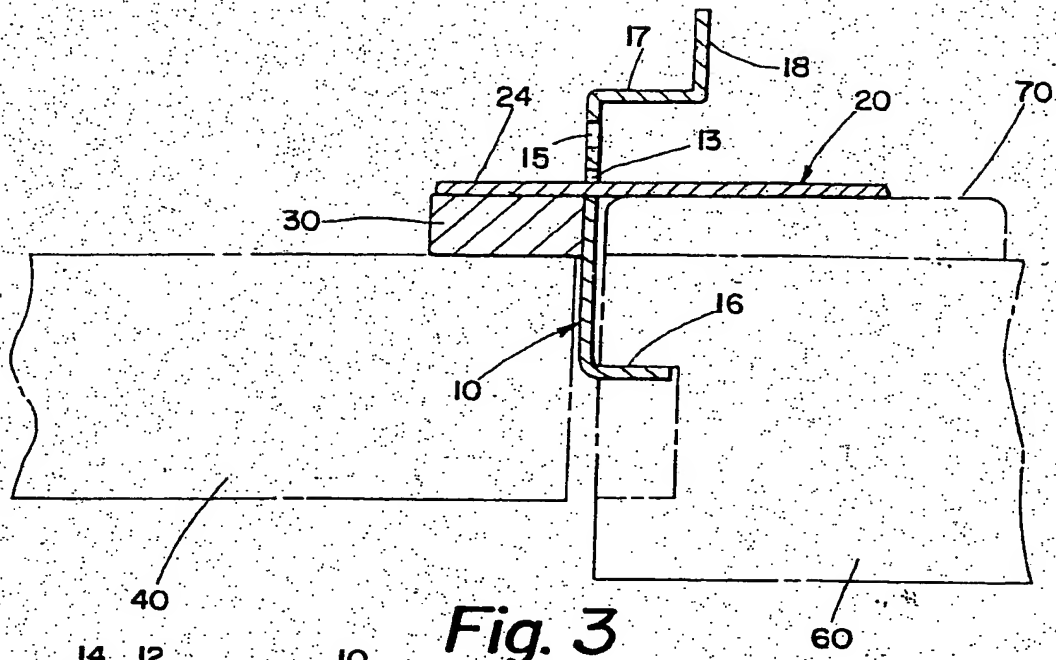
**ABSTRACT**

A portable door lock with a strike plate, a bolt, and a magnet is disclosed. The strike plate has a boss that fits into the recess of a door frame, and has at least one aperture for accommodating the bolt. The strike plate may also have a handle for gripping by the user when inserting the strike plate into the recess of a door frame. Once the strike plate is fitted into the recess of a door frame, a bolt is inserted through the aperture or apertures, and the magnet is placed in the area between the door, the strike plate, and the bolt. The door is thereby secured, without the need for any tools.

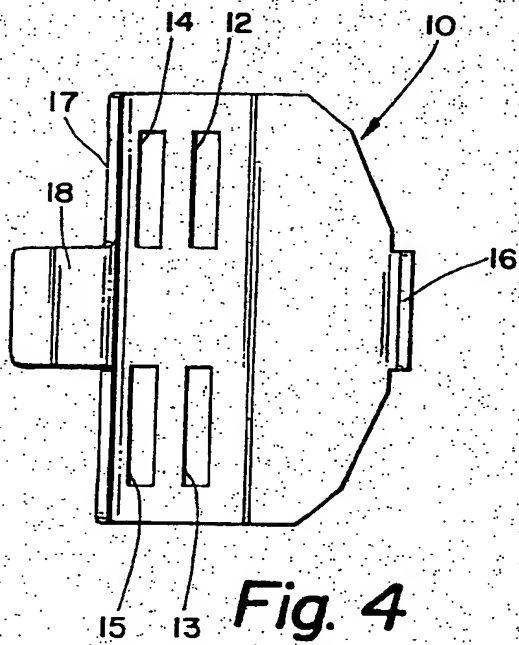




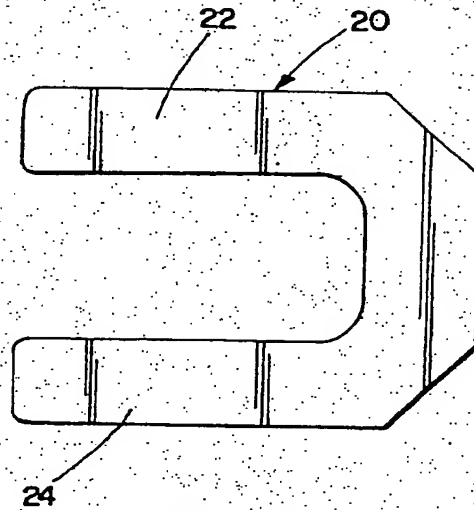




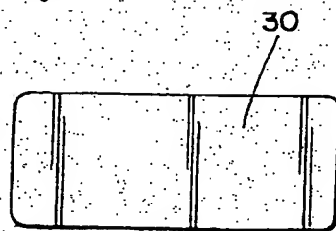
**Fig. 3**



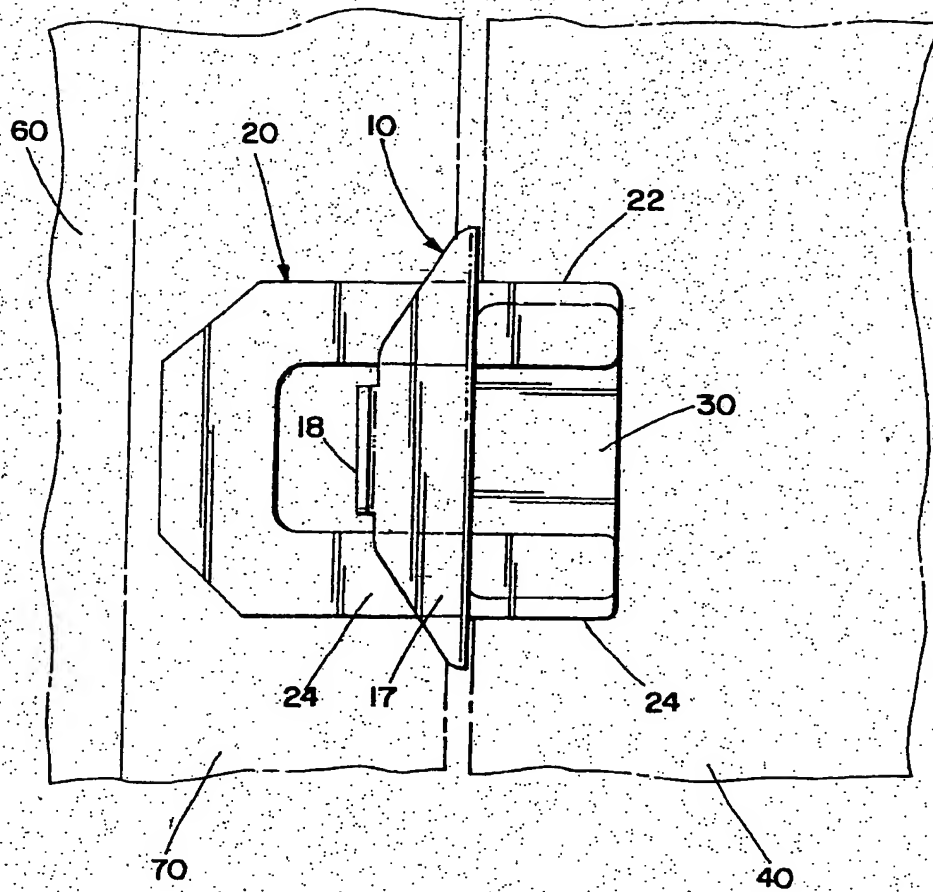
**Fig. 4**



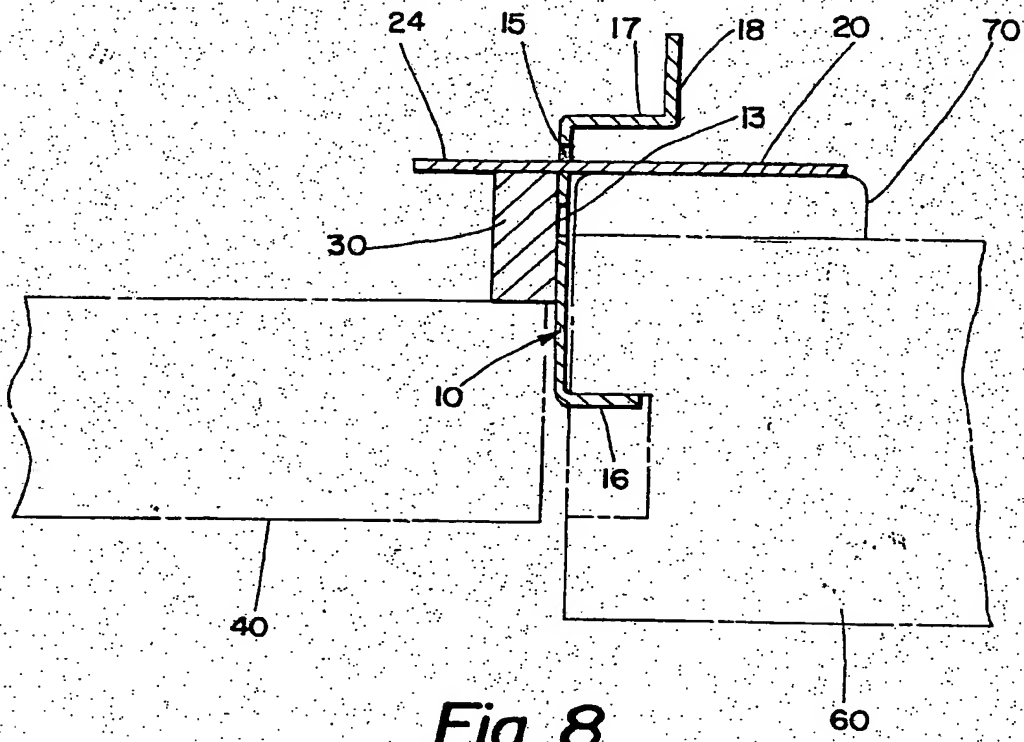
**Fig. 5**



**Fig. 6**



**Fig. 7**



**Fig. 8**